



## The 1st C.A.R.E. Press Release

### Joint Staff Training, C1 Event" & "Local Ceramic Workshops

The C.A.R.E. (Ceramic Artworks to Raise Esteem and Employability) project is designed to help young people with visual impairment (V.I.P.) by improving their psychomotor skills through ceramic workshops. The main goal of this is to boost their self-confidence and open opportunities for them to be able to work in the art industry or fields like culture and social work, or even start their businesses.

The project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union and has been implemented within the framework of international cooperation from October 2022 with the participation of six partners from five different countries (I.E.R.F.O.P. ONLUS (Italy), PRISM IMPRESA SOCIALE S.R.L. (Italy), TOURNIS SYMVOULEFTIKI EE (Greece), ARDMORE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (Ireland), CSI CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION LTD (Cyprus), Foundation for the Development of International and Educational Activity – FRAME (Poland)).

The main objective is to create professional opportunities and psychomotor development opportunities V.I.P.'s by creating the most suitable conditions possible. The project aims to foster inclusive educational settings where visually impaired individuals learn alongside their sighted peers, promoting a supportive learning environment. The project also trains educators to effectively include V.I.P. in their programs, working towards an education system that benefits everyone and builds a more inclusive community.

In early 2023, C.A.R.E partners gathered for their 1st Transnational kick-off meeting. Hosted by TOURNIS SYMVOULEFTIKI EE in Athens on January 17th and 18th, the meeting brought together nine participants from five partner organizations across four European countries. This session marked the beginning of a three-year journey (2022-2025).

A 2<sup>nd</sup> follow-up Transnational Meeting took place in Wexford, Ireland, on June 7-8, 2023, where partners developed a training manual and planned international workshops for both youth workers on ceramic sector and visually impaired participants.

One of the most interesting parts of the project is the design and implementation of live actions to achieve the goals. From October 23 to 27, 2023, the first international training event was held in Lodz, Poland. Over 20 VI experts, partners, ceramists and educators came together to learn and share techniques on how to effectively conduct ceramic workshops that cater specifically to the visually impaired participants.

These workshops are designed to enhance fine motor skills and to develop socio-emotional skills, enabling participants to express themselves and interact socially through the ceramic art. This initiative is proving to be a powerful tool for fostering inclusion and opening new job opportunities in the arts and crafts sector.

The C.A.R.E. team is excitedly implementing the next phase of their innovative project! This phase includes local ceramic workshops in each partner countries, such as Greece, Italy, Ireland, Cyprus and Poland, running to October 2024, aimed at participants aged youth participants. Over the course of these workshops, participants will engage in 100 educational hours, divided into 40 hours of hands-on ceramic work and 60 hours focused on self-awareness development, self-esteem enhancement, and entrepreneurial skills through ceramic artistry.

After a year and half (or 19 months) into the project, it's clear that the team is operating with significant dedication and effectiveness and is prepared to take on the next exciting phases. You can keep track of the project's progress on our platform at <https://www.care-platform.eu/> and social media (facebook: [@careproject.eu](https://www.facebook.com/careprojecteu), instagram: [care\\_project\\_eu](https://www.instagram.com/careprojecteu)).

**Erasmus+ Programme – YOUTH - Cooperation partnerships in youth**

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